



K4GSO.us

The Oracle

Newsletter of the Silver Springs Radio Club

Oldest Radio Club in Marion County, FL



March 2021

President's Message

Bill Gillespie, KW5BG

I hope this past month has gone well for you. I think we are solidly into Spring with the nice weather we've had and Daylight Savings now in effect. And hopefully that hour loss didn't cost you any contest points. :-)

Speaking of nice weather, we experienced some at the Operating Day at Green Clover Hall. We had a good showing of operators and those just checking things out. There were a number of antenna setups to check out, as well as rigs and operating modes. It was beneficial to me because I got my radio connected to my laptop via a CAT cord. It helps having someone who knows what they're doing! hihi If you have questions about your rig or a certain mode, let us know and we can have someone help you get past a hurdle you are having. We have received some excellent ideas for Operating Day – mobile operations/setups, WINLINK ops, Go-kits, learning CW. If these subjects interest you, or if you have other interests, drop me a line.

There will be a Technician Class held in May. It will be jointly sponsored by Silver Springs RC and MERT. It will be held at the Marion County EOC. The dates and times are as follows:

Thursday May 6; 6:30PM - 8:30PM

Saturday May 8; 10:00AM - 2:00pm

Thursday May 13; 6:30PM - 8:30PM

Saturday May 15; 10:00AM - 2:00pm

Thursday May 20; 6:30PM - 8:30PM Test Session

The format hasn't been finalized but if you have an interest in teaching, or assisting, let me know. Sign-up info will be coming.

Activities to look forward to include the Florida QSO Party held 24-25 April and ARRL Field Day held 26-27 June. It looks like the Florida QSO Party will include mobile stations this year and Field Day will be run under the 2020 COVID rules so clubs can plan early. We'll be talking about these as time gets closer.

Next Club Meeting

Tuesday, March 16 Via Zoom

Meeting Room Open: 6:30 PM

Meeting at 7:00 PM

SSRC Board of Directors first Tuesday, 7:00 PM,
Green Clover Hall

Upcoming Events

March 27 — Operating Day, Green Clover Hall, 9:00 AM (Topic TBD)

April 13 — VE Testing, Green Clover Hall, 7:00 PM

**Silver Springs
Radio Club Net
K4GSO Repeater**

Mondays at 7:30 PM

146.610, PL 123

Speaking of COVID, the Board will start meeting in person at Green Clover Hall starting in April. Social distancing will be used and individuals can use masks as they see fit. We will be looking at how to incorporate Zoom into the meetings for those who choose not to attend. We are looking at starting the same for the General Membership Meeting in April. We will be soliciting input from the membership on this at our March Zoom meeting. Hope to see you there. KW5BGn4@gmail.com

IC-7300 versus SDR Play 1A for WSPR Monitoring

Darrell Franchuk / KG4CCB

During the first two weeks of January 2021, a series of WSPR monitoring sessions were conducted to compare the performance of the SDR Play 1A against the IC-7300. The IC-7300 sessions were conducted Jan. 1 through Jan. 6. The SDR Play sessions were conducted Jan. 8 through Jan. 11. The SDR Play was paired with a Dell Latitude laptop running SDRUno software.



The radios had previously been compared informally with the SDR Play having been connected to the 14AVQ vertical or the 40-10 fan dipole while the IC-7300 was connected to the DX-CC dipole or the CP-5HS vertical. For this activity, the SDR Play / Dell laptop were relocated to the main shack to allow connecting to the DX-CC and CP-5HS. The monitoring sessions were performed on 20m and 40m for 24-hour periods.

The table below indicates the Total # of Transmissions and the # of Stations in Europe and Other locations from which transmissions were received (besides US and Canada); they are typically S Africa, S or Central America, and Australia.

Antenna	Band	Radio	Europe	Other	Total	Most km	Least km
CP-5HS	40	IC-7300	2	2	1464	6837	78
		SDR Play	11	2	2952	12699	130
	20	IC-7300	16	8	1506	13975	581
		SDR Play	21	8	1594	15589	581
DX-CC	40	IC-7300	20	3	3380	14602	78
		SDR Play	50	8	5670	15204	78
	20	IC-7300	62	13	3574	15779	121
		SDR Play	59	7	2620	15611	104

Continued on next page.....

What stands out to me is:

- The SDR Play received a notably greater number of transmissions than the IC-7300 in 3 out of 4 cases
- The SDR Play received transmissions from a notably greater number of European locations than the IC-7300 in 3 out of 4 cases
- The radios were similar in terms of Most km and Least km

Bottom line: The SDR Play 1A is a great receiver and an outstanding value at \$115.


Below are specifications related to receiver sensitivity for the two radios. By my understanding, a lower μV reading, such as 0.16 μV , indicates more sensitivity than 0.30 μV . Therefore, the IC-7300 has greater receive sensitivity on 40m than the SDR Play does. However, the table above indicates the SDR Play performed better than the IC-7300 on 40m, which perplexes me.

The data below is provided for those who are more informed on the topic than I am. The IC-7300 specs are taken from the IC-7300 Basic Manual and the SDR Play specs are from the following website: <https://www.sdrplay.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/RSP1A-Technical-Information-R1P1.pdf>

IC-7300 Specifications

• Sensitivity (Filter: SOFT): SSB/CW (BW=2.4 kHz, 10 dB S/N) 1.8 ~ 29.999999 MHz			
		Less than -123 dBm (0.16 μV)	(P.AMP1 ON)

SDR Play 1A Specifications

			
Sensitivity			
Band	AM	SSB/CW	FM
40 meters	0.72 μV	0.30 μV	0.57 μV
30 meters	0.56 μV	0.20 μV	0.44 μV
20 meters	0.48 μV	0.16 μV	0.36 μV

SSRC Member Biographies

Jim Burgess, KN4MIV, Vice President

My family moved to Florida from Elyria, OH when I was eight years old. I graduated from Lake Weir High School in 1983. I had originally planned to attend DeVry University in Atlanta, Georgia to study Electronics Engineering. However, I had a change of heart and let my brother (a recruiter) put me in the USAF. I spent four years and two months working for Uncle Sam as a Ground Radio Communications Specialist and attained the rank of Sergeant. My duty stations were Lackland AFB, Keesler AFB, Avon Park Bombing Range, Wallace Air Station (Philippines) and finally Patrick AFB working at Cape Canaveral Air Station (E & I).

After leaving the Air Force, my intention was to work for Martin Marietta. However, that did not pan out. I worked for two different electricians before managing a pool & spa supplies store for three years. In August of 1990, I started working at E-One as an Electrician 3. While working in production, I attended College of Florida (formerly CFCC) and graduated with an AS degree in Drafting & Design Technology. I currently work in the Aerial Body Engineering Department as a Lead Designer.

I originally started working on my Novice license in February of 1992. However, my co-worker and mentor moved to a different shift, so I never completed it. I still have the Novice Study Guide and cassette code tapes from Radio Shack!

Fast forwarding to 2018, my oldest son Allan who is visually impaired and attends the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind started studying for the Technician test. His mentor at FSDB was his dorm parent Richard Arens, KI4QMB. I bought him the cd's to listen to in addition to the braille copy of the Technician Study Guide provided by the school. I figured that since he was studying for the Technician test that I might as well do it also. I passed the Tech test in May of 2018. I upgraded to General and then Amateur Extra within the next two years. I enjoy occasional satellite contacts with my handheld and have done a little contesting which I'm enjoying.

My current rig is a Yaesu FT-100D transceiver. My longest DX contact so far was about 6000 miles (Slovenia).

73 and as Elbert says "Stay Radio-Active".



Tips from an Old Guy for Newbies

Carl Berry, KC5CMX

Since the COVID is going on and we have an influx of new hams many of which have no local Elmer I am going to post some helpful things to get you started out right in ham radio. These are things my Elmer told me and are long held standards in ham radio. If you really want to fit in then take this advice.

- Don't use 10 codes. Leave them on CB and the Public Safety Frequencies.
- When it is time to give your call sign just give it. No need to add "for ID" or any other commentary. Just say "this is XX4XXX"
- Don't use CB terms like "destinated", "shooting skip", "Roger that", "the home 20", "driving on the super slab", etc.
- Don't say break or call CQ on a repeater. Just give your call sign and say you are listening if you are looking for a contact. The only time you say Break on a repeater is if there is an emergency and you need the frequency. Like a real emergency. Not just to call Bubba and tell him to meet you at KFC.
- Don't ask for a radio check. Some smart butt will tell you they have theirs. Ask for a signal report instead.
- Don't say 73's. It is just 73. 73 means best regards. 73's would mean best regardses. Some old guys even say it too but it is a bad habit that doesn't even make sense.
- Don't ask how to modify your radio to get on frequencies you aren't allowed on. Do what you are going to do but don't ask on the radio. You will be scolded severely.
- Don't get on the radio if you are intoxicated or high. It is not funny. It is just sad!
- Don't use profanity! Just don't!
- Don't talk about anything sexually explicit or gross. We're happy that you have a sex life but it doesn't need to be on the radio. Also the description of your infected toe doesn't need to be talked about either. We are truly sorry but don't want to hear all the gross details.

The Radio Amateur's Code

<http://www.arrl.org/amateur-code>

The Radio Amateur is...

- **CONSIDERATE**... never knowingly operates in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.
- **LOYAL**... offers loyalty, encouragement, and support to other amateurs, local clubs, and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.
- **PROGRESSIVE**... with knowledge abreast of science, a well-built and efficient station and operation above reproach.
- **FRIENDLY**... slow and patient operating when requested; friendly advice and counsel to the beginner; kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interest of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur service.
- **BALANCED**... radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.
- **PATRIOTIC**... station and skill always ready for service to country and community.

SSRC Information.....

[SSRC Logo Shirts & Caps](#)

[Green Clover Key Card](#)

[Perry Field Access](#)

[Membership Application](#)

[Buy/Sell/Trade](#)

[QST NFL](#) – NFL Section Newsletter

[Silver Springs Radio Club Website](#)

[NFL Section Website](#)

[WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#)

[NG3K DX](#)

[Club Minutes and Financial Re-
ports](#)

2021 SSRC Officers

[President— Bill Gillespie, KW5BG](#)

[Vice President— Jim Burgess, KN4MIV](#)

[Secretary — Ivory Williams, W6IVY](#)

[Treasurer— Tom Lufkin, W4DAX](#)

[Immediate Past President—Elbert Wilkinson, KQ3K](#)

Directors:

[Mike Condon— W9MMC](#)

[Gilbert Gyarmati— K4GLG](#)

[Wayne Brown— N4FP](#)

Committee Chairs:

[Membership – Elbert Wilkinson, KQ3K](#)

[Trustee K4GSO – Wayne Brown, N4FP](#)

[Newsletter – Marty Brown, N4GL](#)